



**US Army Corps  
Of Engineers**  
Charleston District

# News Release

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## Corps of Engineers Announces Revised Environmental Impact Statement Schedule for Proposed South Carolina State Ports Authority Marine Container Terminal

**August 15, 2006**

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District announced a revised schedule for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement regarding the proposed South Carolina State Ports Authority (SPA) Marine Container Terminal.

The FEIS and the follow-on Record of Decision were originally scheduled to be released in August 2006 and November 2006, respectively. At this time, it is projected that the FEIS will be released before the end of the year. A Record of Decision -- the document that explains the reasons for the decision and summarizes any mitigation measures that will be incorporated in the project -- is expected to be published not later than April 2007.

In preparing to make a decision on an Environmental Impact Statement, the Corps of Engineers brings together information from many different experts. In addition, there are certain requirements that must be met prior to permit approval, such as 401 Water Quality Certification and Endangered Species Act consultation.

According to Lt. Col. Ed Fleming, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, there are several issues that must be resolved. However, the revised schedule was developed based on consultation timelines established by the Endangered Species Act.

“We have just received a request from the National Marine Fisheries Service, asking for additional time to evaluate possible effects on a species that they say is nearing extinction, the right whale. We are granting that request because we wouldn’t want to do anything that might jeopardize their ability to do a thorough evaluation,” Fleming said.

“We are committed to completing the Final Environmental Impact Statement in a timely manner but it is our responsibility to conduct a complete evaluation of the proposed port facility, taking into account a number of diverse issues while considering impacts to the surrounding communities and the environment,” said Fleming.